

AN AUSTRALIAN ADVENTURE
 (Turf, Field & Farm.)
 Whether it was attributable to the
 poorer knowledge of the country
 caused by our guides, or that we picked
 up altogether different route from the
 travellers, and thus escaped the mis-
 and privations they complained of, or
 I, I know not, but certain we had
 no hardships all this time worthy
 of a harlequin, and that we were
 little braver, a change of clothes
 and some few trifles for our
 and nothing but the game and fish
 met with in the woods, on the prairie
 and in the streams, and a thin but
 sufficient for pillows and a thin but
 each other just covering, we enjoyed
 heart of health and exuberant spirits.
 As we proceeded, we crossed a
 plains covered with luxuriant pasturage
 and every where well timbered and
 watered. It was in passing through
 some country that we met with our
 adventure the nearly cost of our lives.
 We had just left the river and were
 on our rear and were crossing a
 greatly wide belt of waving grass
 thickly spread with small sea-
 sonable and tucula bushes, when a
 shower of spears came whirling
 over our ears from the dense
 cover of reeds that spread along the
 edge of a dry water course known
 to the spears seemed to come from
 all directions, and fell upon us as
 thick as hail, showing the natives to be
 well in considerable numbers. The first
 spears, some of which wounded the
 men, were unmanageable. The first
 Warrango was riding planked so
 clearly as to throw him, whereupon
 the three spears came whirling
 and came quite some yards through the long
 grass, and finally broke away from him
 and exploded off in the direction of the
 water.
 Up to this moment not a savage had
 shown himself, but had anticipated
 himself both Starkey and myself
 were among the reeds and bushes
 under, dead and lying, and about a score
 of them armed with spears and clubs
 and their spears came whirling
 with the speed of a buck. The foremost
 spears hit in the air and fell dead at
 the feet of Starkey's horse. The
 of the moment, sank into the cover
 of the long grass, but only for a mo-
 ment, when, with recovered limbs, he
 and with long bounds in pursuit of the
 fugitive. Starkey galloped off to
 the right, while I held the reins
 and to hold the front of the main body
 in check; but my horse had learned to
 dread their spears so in this brief
 that he would not stand a moment
 to give me a chance to handle my ride with
 certainty. Finding this, I leaped him
 from the brook, and galloped to the
 rear, poured the contents of my
 chambered rifle into the thickets of
 reeds with such precision as my long
 course permitted, escaping swimmers
 spears, nearly of which fell behind me.
 My clothes were torn in all directions,
 and several spears trailed from my horse's
 flank. I felt great pain in my left
 and back, and was unable to hold
 my flowing hair, as also from a wound
 in my left shoulder. I had just time to
 point that a dark mass was clustering
 to receive me, that another was
 coming upon my rear, and to draw my
 holder revolver, when the rascals, pro-
 vided by their former exploits, and
 riding behind me, sent a shower
 of spears, so well directed as to lance me
 nearly into a caving of my horse's
 back, hurling me several yards beyond
 the verge of triumph rang from the
 arms of this accident, and I finally
 lay on the ground, for I knew how
 easily in their power, they came bound
 through the long grass and reeds,
 and the proper indignation of my
 up triumph, but I had been in worse
 places than this out more than one occa-
 sion, and I could only prepare myself
 to die.
 It will be remembered that I had
 just shot a revolver, and I was
 dead myself. In falling I had slighted
 my shoulder, sinking down upon
 my back, and I found that it was
 the work of a moment to raise
 myself on my elbow, the better to take
 aim.
 For a second or two nothing could
 be seen but the violent shaking of the
 reeds as the natives rushed upon me,
 toward the spot where they had seen me,
 but then one black head appeared, then
 another followed by several more. All
 at once I found my horse's head
 gathered about him in a cluster I could
 give him any mark upon their dusky
 faces, and I saw that they were
 guided by the luxuriant grass; but my
 horse was fairly up now, and I patiently
 waited the proper indignation of my
 and while the yell was still upon his lips,
 he laid down, however, he fell dead,
 and the second, third and fourth, and
 before the group of murderous villains
 could withdraw or dispersed. Then,
 rising to my feet, I rushed upon them,
 pointing in my fire with the fatal result
 of my spear and practice with the weapon,
 and even in the wildest mo-
 ments of excitement, while the natives
 fled cheer reached me, coming rapidly
 and Starkey galloped up, pur-
 suing the proper indignation of my
 and he had possessed himself of
 and smiling with a force and rapidity
 that nothing could ever have been
 and death upon the terror stricken
 natives with every blow. While this
 was taking place my horse, who, by
 the firing, had recovered his feet, and
 was endeavoring to run off, but the
 being tangled among his legs,
 prevented him and enabled the spears
 him. He had lost a good deal of blood,
 but the emergency required more
 of the extraordinary efforts, and
 required to torture him, necessity
 made me do it, and, as I was
 saddle, I spurred him to the side of
 Starkey.
 The enemy had evidently calculated
 upon an easy victory, and were thrown
 by such confusion and consternation
 by the receipt they met with, and they
 were now fairly beaten off, and fled to
 the shelter of the forests like frightened
 sheep.
 This gave us a moment's breathing
 space, and a glance at Starkey showed
 how terribly he had been handled in the
 fight, his clothes hanging in tatters and
 dyed with blood and foam. Our first
 care was to recover the other animal
 and to see whether the natives were
 near or beyond him; the guide, so pick-
 ing up the rifle which I had dropped
 as he fell, crossed the river, and
 as readily as our wounded horses could
 by search of them.
 As we were passing the dry water
 course we perceived our guide back-
 ward from the edge of some reeds,
 had the horses and found the satisfaction
 of him when Starkey had driven
 off the natives that were in pri-
 vate, he had endeavored to make
 runs, which, after consid-
 erable difficulty, they having been con-
 sidered in the distance, and they were
 them in this place until he could
 get us out of riding.
 This was a great relief to us, as so
 long as we retained our arms and
 by changing our saddles to the backs
 from horses, and leading the wounded
 ones from a rock toward the wood,
 rifle, directing our attack, for the
 of the prairie, some of the
 in the edge of the prairie, declared the
 natives were not far.
 Fortunately for us, what little wind
 there was, was unfavorable to the ene-
 my, and in our direction, so the ene-
 my's heart, rendered doubly difficult by
 the condition of some of the
 natives, we gained the advantage of
 the surrounding flames had reached a dan-
 gerous proximity, and in a few
 side prairie, that an hour or two had
 been one of the most successful and
 beautiful forays, became a smoking
 and desolate waste.
 DANGER. Some anxiety exists among
 the citizens because it has been ascer-
 tained that the principal town of
 the fire fine is soon to be
 the attractions of Dalton, and
 that it was a well-earned.

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

A vertical strip of a book's binding, showing the spine and the edges of the pages. The binding is dark and worn, with visible stitching and the texture of the paper.

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